



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE



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## USDA TO COLLECT DATA ON FARMERS' PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR 2008

Richmond, Virginia – What crops do farmers intend to plant this growing season? Will corn acreage surpass last year's record high? What about Virginia specific commodities and other crops? These are just a few of the critical questions the Virginia Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be asking more than 1,700 producers statewide as part of the March Agricultural Survey.

"The March Agricultural Survey is one of the most important surveys conducted each year by NASS," explained Herman Ellison, director of the NASS Virginia Field Office. "This survey will provide the first official estimates of Virginia and U.S. farmers' planting intentions for 2008, providing a glimpse at the upcoming growing season.

"Data from the March Agricultural Survey benefit farmers and ranchers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical decisions for their operation. When producers finalize their cropping and marketing plans, this survey will be one of the most important sources of information for them," added Ellison.

Beginning the end of February, NASS will contact selected Virginia producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on the crop acreage they intend to plant for the 2008 crop year. NASS will also collect data on quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm. The information will be compiled and analyzed then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Prospective Plantings* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on March 31.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Ellison.

All reports are available on the NASS web site: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at (800) 772-0670.

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